

November 20, 1995

David Werdegar, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Health Policy and Planning Division
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
1600 9th Street
Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Werdegar:

Century City Hospital appreciates its inclusion in the OSHPD 1994 California Hospital Outcomes Project. The report heightens not only awareness of efforts to improve patient outcomes but also the methodology of data collection and reporting. We have carefully reviewed the report and would like you to note our internal review findings.

For the seventy-three Acute Myocardial Infarction cases, thirteen outcomes were reported. However, significant considerations regarding these cases are:

1. Three cases were coded incorrectly - the principal diagnosis should not have been AMI. Therefore, the total number of AMI cases would have been reduced to 70.
2. Six patients had advance directives requesting no aggressive measures.
3. One patient arrived in full arrest.

In summary therefore, of the seventy (70) Acute Myocardial Infarction cases, ten (10) outcomes would have been reported by your methodology. As seven (7) of these outcomes were not the result of care delivery, our actual outcome rate would in fact be lower than the expected for this condition.

Nonetheless, Century City Hospital is dedicated to clinical practice improvement and we respect the vital role of outcome studies, both internal and external in this process. Our commitment is to continually conduct outcomes studies to identify on-going opportunities to improve care throughout our facility.

David Werdegar, M.D., M.P.H.
November 20, 1995

Additionally, in an effort to improve the accuracy of our coding, a sub-committee of the Health Information Systems Committee has been formulated to assist coders in interpreting coding guidelines.

We welcome any further input and appreciate your consideration of our internal views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elie M. Gindi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elie M. Gindi, MD
Chief of Staff